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GRAPHIC NOVELIST AND PULITZER PRIZE WINNER ART SPIEGELMAN DISCUSSES THE DARK NATURE OF HIS WORK **PAGE 18**



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RCMP investigate police HQ project

Warrant executed.

Computers removed from Caspian's McGillivray office



BERNICE PONTANILLA
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The construction company at the centre of the Winnipeg police headquarters project is under further RCMP scrutiny.

The RCMP confirmed Wednesday that a "full investigation" is underway into the \$210-million police HQ and that officers executed a warrant at the office of Caspian Construction.

"RCMP Manitoba investigators from the Federal, Serious and Organized Crime Unit have been conducting two separate reviews," stated an RCMP media release.

"One team of investigators has been working on the Winnipeg Police Service Headquarters file, while another team has been working on the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic stations file."

Two RCMP vehicles were parked outside Caspian Con-



Two RCMP officers remove computer equipment from the office of Caspian Construction on Wednesday. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

struction's McGillivray Boulevard office for hours Wednesday. At one point, two officers were seen carrying computers — a laptop and two towers — out of the Caspian office

and into a van that was then driven away.

The raid comes four months after Manitoba Justice sent three audits related to real-estate transactions and

projects to the RCMP.

Last week, the Winnipeg Free Press reported that Manitoba Justice received a letter in a "brown envelope" that alleged doctoring of invoices

and payment to an unidentified council member — both unproven allegations.

Mayor Brian Bowman held a press conference Wednesday afternoon to reaffirm his sup-

Background

The police HQ project started in 2009 at a cost of \$105 million, plus \$31.5 million for the purchase of the Canada Post building on Graham Avenue.

- The current price tag is \$210 million; however, city officials and former mayor Sam Katz cautioned against using that figure because they expect to sell the tower portion of the building.

port for the RCMP's investigation.

"We all want to get to the bottom of this," said Bowman, who last Thursday stated if any criminal wrongdoing is uncovered, "heads should roll."

"We have to restore people's faith in city hall and integrity in the process, and that's one thing that I think Winnipeggers have demanded more, and that's exactly what we'll be doing."

Bowman said the city has been implementing the recommendations in the three audits and he'll have "more to say publicly very soon."

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Springfield

Man faces charges after woman found dead inside motel

Oakbank RCMP have charged a 55-year-old man with second-degree murder after a 42-year-old woman was found dead at a motel in the RM of Springfield. RCMP found the woman

at Deacon's Corner, a motel fewer than 20 kilometres outside Winnipeg, around 7 a.m. on Dec. 14. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Winnipegger Allen Dale Drobot will appear in court on Dec. 17.

The RCMP's D Division major-crime service and forensic identification service continue to investigate.

SAMANTHA SAMSON/FOR METRO

Osborne House. Province to give control to shelter

The Province of Manitoba is ready to begin relinquishing its control over Osborne House.

The Winnipeg women's shelter has been under provincial administration for more than a year after a pair of audits raised concerns about the shelter's finances, staff morale and ability to deliver services, but Family Services Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross said this week the problems have been reversed.

"In the last year, we have been able to address the issues," Irvin-Ross told Metro on Wednesday. "The No. 1 priority is ensuring that women and children are getting a good quality of service."

Now that Osborne House has its house in order, so to speak, the province wants to work toward getting the shelter back under the complete control of its board of directors and is proposing a co-management arrangement as a stepping stone to that goal.

"Co-management would mean the province appoints an individual and the board appoints an individual and those individuals together administer the program," explained Irvin-Ross. "They both have to agree on how



Family Services Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross said Manitoba is working to relinquish its control over women's shelter Osborne House. METRO FILE

we move forward."

Last year, the audit results led the province to dissolve the board and appoint former Osborne House director Marlene Bertrand to administer the shelter while the problems — which included a deficit — were resolved.

Irvin-Ross said the shelter, which operates with the help of \$1.6 million in annual funding from the province, is no longer in a deficit.

"(Bertrand) has worked tirelessly in implementing standards, working on balancing the budget and doing those pieces," she said.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO



A 2011 photo of the burned-out house in St. Theresa Point First Nation, where two-month-old Errabella Harper was killed. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Hero still haunted by sound of a baby's cry

St. Theresa Point. Man who saved toddler from burning house testifies at inquest that all he can think about is the one he couldn't rescue

A man who crawled through a window to rescue a toddler from a burning home on a remote Manitoba First Nation says he's still haunted by the baby he wasn't able to save.

Timothy Mason was testifying Wednesday at an inquest into the deaths of three children and an adult in house fires on two of the province's northern reserves. He was a band

constable, working across the street from the home, when fire broke out at St. Theresa Point in January 2011.

Mason said he ran toward the house and kicked in the front door, only to be driven back by billowing black smoke, intense heat and flames. On the front lawn, a woman was hysterical and screaming, "There are kids in there," he recalled.

Mason found a window and managed to open it enough to crawl in. He held his breath, blinded by black smoke, and started feeling his way along the floor. On a bed, he found a toddler and grabbed her.

"I just put the baby out the window until I felt someone grab her from my hands."

Someone then pulled him out through the window, and he lay on the snow, gasping for air. When he could manage it, he ran back to the window and opened it again. Flames shot out, catching the top of his head and his jacket.

"I didn't hear her crying anymore."

Five children escaped that fire, but two-month-old Errabella Harper died.

Although Mason was honoured for his heroism in rescuing the toddler, all he can think about is the baby he wasn't able to save.

"It still haunts me when I hear a baby cry," said Mason, who is no longer a band constable. "I can never forget."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 NEWS

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JP Hoe Hoe Hoe hosts ninth holiday show at Burton Cummings Theatre

Concert. Show will see Hoe, along with a massive band and some special musical guests, playing Hoe-penned holiday favourites

JARED STORY
winipeg@metronews.ca

JP Hoe is a Christmas tradition.

The Winnipeg singer-songwriter hosts the ninth annual JP Hoe Hoe Hoe Holiday Show on Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

Last year, the Christmas concert — presented by the Winnipeg Folk Festival — moved from its long-time home at the Park Theatre to the much bigger Burt. Hoe

started the show in 2006 at the King's Head Pub.

"I just wanted to play a show and I thought I could use my last name for marketing purposes," says Hoe of how Hoe Hoe Hoe started.

"For some reason, that November I thought it was a funny idea for a Chinese guy to grow a moustache. It did not go well, but I made Christmas cards and celebrated that crowning achievement by shaving it off onstage. We shaved it off to Eye of the Tiger. By the end of that show, we said, 'That was really fun, let's do it again.'"

This year's show will see Hoe, along with a massive band and some special musical guests, playing Hoe-penned holiday favourites as well as a few tunes from his upcoming album. Hoe is currently working on a new album with producer Rusty Matyas (The Sheepdogs, Imaginary Cities).

aginary Cities).

Hoe says the show will also feature holiday-themed humour and theatrics, plus plenty of Christmas kitsch.

"I like to say it's for anybody who's not super cool. You can come with your parents if you want. You can come with your grandparents if you want," Hoe says.

"We look at this time of year as feeling like kids. We try to put together a set that really reflects how fun the season should be. That can be cheesy, that can be campy, and I honestly don't care. It's not about being cool, and anybody who comes to the show is in that same frame of mind. 'Entertain me for two hours and make me feel good.'"

Tickets are \$37, \$26 and \$16 at Ticketmaster. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Christmas Cheer Board. Showtime is 8 p.m.



Winnipeg singer-songwriter JP Hoe presents his annual JP Hoe Hoe Hoe Holiday Show on Dec. 20 at the Burton Cummings Theatre. CONTRIBUTED

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Jingle bell, jingle bell rap

If you're looking for a switch from your traditional holiday music, The Good Will Social Club has an event "rapped" up just for you.

The newly established restaurant, bar and social club is hosting a holiday rap convention, presented by local radio station UMFH.

"The night is a great chance to catch a glimpse of new and established Canadian hip-hop talent which are Winnipeg-based," said promoter Elliot Walsh.

The live concert will feature six local acts: John Smith, Nestor Wynrush, 3Peat, Cylv Wvffle, Lonnie Ce and headliner Rob Crooks.

"I'm excited to perform songs from my new album Downtown '09 in front of an audience who hasn't seen me do a full-on rap show in a while," said Crooks. "On top of that, it's great we were able to match some more experienced acts with some of the city's up and comers."

Walsh feels the show will be a good representation of the city and the artists who make up the local scene.



Rob Crooks headlines the holiday rap convention at The Good Will on Thursday. CONTRIBUTED

"We are Winnipeggers who make music about Winnipeg, the city we love so scrutinizingly deep," said Walsh. "We are inspired by the city, and it is reflected in

most of the art we create."

The show takes place Thursday. Tickets are \$10 at the door, which opens at 10 p.m.

EVAN MATTHEWS/FOR METRO



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Dave Angus at the premier's State of the Province address earlier this month. COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

NDP turmoil has execs on edge

Survey. Provincial government sees much lower approval rating than federal, municipal

COLIN FAST
winnipeg@metronews.ca

A new survey suggests Premier Greg Selinger's political nightmare is also putting a scare into the business community.

The latest results of Probe Research's Manitoba Business Leaders Index — an annual poll of 200 CEOs and owners — show just 13 per cent of executives feel the provincial

government is doing a good job creating a positive business climate.

By comparison, the federal government got a passing grade from 34 per cent of those surveyed, while 28 per cent complimented local governments for their efforts to encourage business development.

At the premier's State of the Province address earlier this month, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce CEO Dave Angus said the "shenanigans" surrounding the NDP leadership are hurting Manitoba's reputation.

"When stories about our political dysfunction hit the front page of the Globe and

Selinger's woes

The survey of business leaders comes just one day after the release of an Angus Reid poll that showed Selinger has the lowest approval rate of any provincial leader in the country.

- Selinger's approval rating currently sits at 17 per cent.

Mail, it sends a very negative signal to other jurisdictions around the country in terms of Manitoba as a place to invest and do business," Angus said.

Feds probing fatal truck-cargo crash

The family of a truck driver killed in a bizarre accident in Winnipeg took to social media Wednesday to mourn the loss of a man who "made friends everywhere he went."

Barry Johnson, 57, has been identified as the man who died Tuesday afternoon when a load of scrap railroad track he was hauling went through the back of his cab as he made an abrupt stop to avoid a crash on Lagimodiere Boulevard near Dugald Road. Barry had been a Class 1 driver for 14 years, according to his LinkedIn profile.

On Facebook, Bruce Johnson said his brother, "a special person who was always smiling," was killed instantly.

"I'll miss him dearly,"

Hazards

"Any time you hear of an incident like this, it's an unfortunate reminder of, despite how uncommon these incidents are, they are not at zero yet."

Manitoba Trucking Association executive director Terry Shaw

Bruce wrote.

Winnipeg police are investigating the accident. Anyone with information who hasn't already spoken to police is asked to call the Central Traffic Unit at 204-987-6271.

A spokesperson for Manitoba Workplace Health and Safety said the department is not currently investigating because the industry is regulated federally but noted federal officials have started looking into the accident.

Manitoba Trucking Association executive director Terry Shaw acknowledged it was a hard day for the industry.

"Any time you hear of an incident like this, it's an unfortunate reminder of, despite how uncommon these incidents are, they are not at zero yet," he said. "So we're going to keep doing whatever we can to help our drivers out there."

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Donations

Experimental Lakes Area gains charitable status

There's another charity available just in time for your holiday donations.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development-Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) has received charitable status from the Canada Revenue Agency.

Donating to the IISD-ELA now means you can get a tax receipt.

Along with the status, the IISD-ELA received a \$1-million donation to support teaching opportunities for university students at the organization.

SAMANTHA SAMSON/FOR METRO

Animal Services

Handing out treats to pets, tips for owners

Animal Services officers will hand out treats to pets at off-leash parks while passing educational material on responsible pet ownership.

The public is encouraged to approach officers beginning Thursday, as they will pass off additional treats to anyone who mentions Whiskerpeg.

"It's important all pet owners know about the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, and our officers are excited to get out there and talk to people," said Leland Gordon, chief operating officer of the Animal Services Agency. METRO

Methamphetamine

Winnipeg teen charged over parcel of drugs

Manitoba RCMP have charged an 18-year-old Winnipeg man allegedly involved with an intercepted parcel of illegal drugs shipped from Ontario to Winnipeg on Dec. 10.

The Manitoba RCMP Federal Serious and Organized Crime Unit and Peel Regional Police also seized about eight kilograms of methamphetamine.

After investigating the parcel, RCMP charged Chazz Ruf with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking. Ruf will appear in court on Jan. 22, 2015. METRO

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With Philip Lee set to end his term as lieutenant-governor in the next few months, a federal government committee is considering options for replacing him as the Queen's representative in Manitoba. Names like Ovide Mercredi, Gail Asper and Judy Wasylycia-Leis have been floated, but we think the search should be expanded to include some wild-card candidates.

COLIN FAST
winnipeg@metronews.ca

1



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hudson

Pro: he's been in the spotlight since he was born and gained experience in special-event protocol by taking part in the opening, re-opening and re-re-opening of Journey to Churchill. And he's already met Prince Charles.

Con: Speech from the Throne might get weird.

5

possible LGs

5 Integrating explorations

Greg Selinger

Pro: With only a 17 per cent public-approval rating and a disgruntled caucus, Selinger might be exploring his career options early in the new year, anyway. Make him the LG and he wouldn't even have to change his parking spot.

Con: not sure how well he'd get along with Premier Oswald.




THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lieutenant Loader

Pro: one of the mascots for the city's Know Your Zone program, Loader already has the rank of lieutenant. He could dedicate his term in office to the critical humanitarian cause of teaching Winnipeegers where to park when it snows.

Con: having a front-end loader move into Government House could be disastrous for the 130-year-old home.



CONTRIBUTOR



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home.

**Burton
Cummings**

Pro: the Vice Regal Salute could be replaced with Stand Tall. We haven't had an LG with a moustache since James Duncan McGregor in 1934. All those smiling Burton faces graffitied around town would suddenly be treasured by monarchists.

Con: all official government events would be catered by Salisbury House.



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teemu Selanne

Pro: he's been unofficial royalty in Winnipeg since his rookie season in 1992-93, so what better way to honour him than by making Teemu the Queen's point person in the province? Plus, if he came back, he might still be the best hockey player in town.

Con: could compromise diplomatic relations with Finland.



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Free trip around the world? It's all in a name

Toronto. Nova Scotia woman with the same name as man's ex-girlfriend gets a world-spanning plane ticket

A Toronto man has finally found Ms. Right — sort of.

Last May, Jordan Axani, 28, and his then-girlfriend

named Elizabeth Gallagher booked heavily discounted round-the-world air tickets, but their relationship ended, and he didn't want her ticket to go to waste. The ticket had a strict no-transfer policy, but since passport information was not required when booking, it can be used by any Canadian named Elizabeth Gallagher.

Axani posted his offer last

month on the popular Reddit social-media website and received thousands of emails, including 18 from actual Elizabeth Gallaghers with Canadian passports.

He's now chosen his travel mate, Elizabeth Quinn Gallagher, a 23-year-old from Cole Harbour, N.S.

"It's strictly a platonic trip. It's going to be great," Axani said.

At first the new Elizabeth Gallagher thought a trip with a stranger whose ex-girlfriend's name is the same as hers was "crazy" but she hit it off with Axani after talking on the phone with him for hours.

The trip is scheduled to start Dec. 21 in New York City and continue on to Milan, Prague, Paris, Bangkok and New Delhi before ending in Toronto on Jan. 12. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Elizabeth Gallagher won a ticket around the world with Jordan Axani. CONTRIBUTED

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Federal regulations

New measures aim to reduce rail-crossing crashes

The federal government has introduced long-awaited regulations aimed at reducing deadly train collisions at level crossings.

The regulations, to take full effect over the next seven years, establish consistent grade crossing safety standards across Canada and clarify the responsibilities of rail companies and road authorities.

Transport Canada says the regulations will improve safety at approximately 14,000 public and 9,000 private grade crossings along 42,650 kilometres of railway track. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Landing in Halifax

Flight cut short, RCMP cite unruly passenger

Police were called to the Halifax Stanfield International Airport on Wednesday over an unruly passenger who allegedly assaulted two flight attendants on an Air Canada flight to Toronto from London.

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Al Leblanc said the flight made an unscheduled landing at the airport just before 12:30 p.m. He said a 30-year-old woman from South Africa was taken into custody from the plane for allegedly assaulting two flight attendants.

No other details were provided. **METRO**

S-221. Proposed bill targets transit assault

People who assault transit drivers can expect to do more jail time in 2015, provided a new bill becomes law.

Sponsored by Sen. Bob Runciman, Bill S-221 would encourage judges to hand down stricter sentences to those convicted of attacking bus drivers and other transit operators.

Runciman said assaulting transit workers puts the entire public at risk.

"2011 is the last year we have stats for, but there were over 2,000 reported assaults, 80 per cent of which were in the vehicle," he said. "And in that case, it's not just the driver who is in danger. It could be a pedestrian, a cyclist or someone in a car travelling in the other direction."

The Conservative senator introduced the bill last fall. It's since passed the Senate, and Runciman is confident it will become law by February. Brad Ross, a spokesman

for the Toronto Transit Commission, said Bill S-221 has the full support of the TTC.

"On average, about one TTC employee is assaulted or threatened every day over a matter of less than \$3," Ross told Metro.

On Wednesday morning, a TTC bus driver in Toronto was beaten and robbed by a would-be passenger following what police described as a "fare dispute."

The man reportedly dragged the driver to the ground outside the bus and kicked him repeatedly before fleeing. The driver was taken to hospital but is expected to recover.

The assailant remains at large, but the TTC has given police security footage of the incident.

"Police take these matters as seriously as we do, and we are confident the assailant will be apprehended," Ross said.

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Trial. Jury continues to deliberate Magnotta's fate

The jury at Luka Rocco Magnotta's murder trial appeared to focus on the mental disorder defence Wednesday as it asked a pointed question before ending a second day of deliberations without a verdict.

"Is a personality disorder a disease of the mind as a matter of law?" the jurors asked the judge as they emerged from their deliberations for the first time.

Quebec Superior Court Justice Guy Cournoyer answered "yes" and told them no more before sending them back to deliberate further.

They remained holed up and left without asking anything else. They will resume deliberating Thursday.

The accused has admitted to killing and dismembering Jun Lin in May 2012 but his lawyer argues he should be found not criminally responsible because he is schizophrenic and couldn't tell right from wrong at the time.

The judge had told the jurors in his instructions they should start their work by focusing on the not criminally

The Crown's case

The Crown has argued the crimes were planned and deliberate and that the steps Magnotta took to hide his tracks and flee authorities were not consistent with someone suffering from a mental disorder.

- Prosecutor Louis Bouthillier said Magnotta's schizophrenia was a misdiagnosis and that his medical problems and behaviour are likely the result of personality disorders.

responsible issue.

Cournoyer also said they would need to answer two questions for the mental disorder defence to be accepted. Firstly, is it more likely than not Magnotta was suffering from a mental disorder at the time of the offence? And secondly, did the disorder make him incapable of knowing the acts were wrong?

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'We can attach her name again to this conversation'

Rehtaeh Parsons.

A directive from the Nova Scotia attorney general allows name of teen cyberbullying victim to be reported



Rehtaeh Parsons is shown in a handout photo. HO-FACEBOOK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When a judge placed a publication ban on Rehtaeh Parsons' identity, Glen Canning began wearing a T-shirt to court bearing his daughter's name in a campaign that ended Wednesday as reporting restrictions in the child pornography case were eased.

For Canning, a directive from Nova Scotia's attorney general allowing Parsons' name to be reported was a relief.

"We can attach her name again to this conversation and that's just fantastic," Canning said.

Attorney General Lena Metlege Diab says breaches of the ban by the media or in

other forums will not be prosecuted, unless the girl's name is used in a derogatory way.

A judge put the mandatory ban on Parsons' identity in May in the case of two young men who were charged with child pornography offences, even though he said his decision "serves no purpose" because

both of the girls' parents wanted her identity public and her case had been widely reported.

Last month, the Halifax Chronicle-Herald identified Parsons as the victim in the case when one of the young men pleaded guilty in youth court. He will be sentenced in January for distributing a sexually

graphic image of the teenaged girl, who died last year following a suicide attempt.

The other young man was given a conditional discharge for making child pornography.

Canning said he believes the decision by the Chronicle-Herald and at least two other media outlets to publish his daughter's name tipped the balance. He said the ban shut down debate on the issues of the case and the confusion even led some high schools to cancel his appearances to talk about cyberbullying.

Canning said the decision would also help free up the work of an organization he started last month with Rehtaeh's mother, Leah Parsons. The Rehtaeh Parsons Society aims to address the prevalence of cyberbullying, youth sexual violence and the distribution of images among young people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

To read about Glen Canning's struggle with the publication ban, see page 16

Canada 'indispensable' in secret Cuba talks, U.S. says

The White House is extending its thanks to Canada for hosting the meetings that let to the United States and Cuba agreeing to re-establish diplomatic relations and open economic and travel ties.

Senior Obama adminis-

tration officials say Canada was "indispensable" in hosting the majority of the secret talks, which took place for more than a year.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper downplayed Canada's contribution, telling the CBC that Canada did not

mediate or direct the talks. But he called Wednesday's announcement an "overdue development."

"We facilitated places where the two countries could have a dialogue and explore ways of normalizing the relationship," Harper

said. "I personally believe changes are coming in Cuba, and this will facilitate those."

Nonetheless, Harper said, those changes will come slowly to an economy and a society he called "overdue for entry" into the 21st century.

Harper also issued a statement congratulating the two countries on reaching their agreement, which marks a historic shift in U.S. policy after a half-century of enmity towards Cuba dating back to the Cold War.

U.S. officials say the first

face-to-face talks with the Cubans took place in Canada in June of last year, with several other discussions taking place since then.

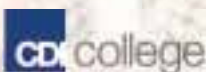
THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more on the U.S.-Cuba deal, see page 13

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Stateless Yukon man looks at applying for refugee status

Donovan McGlaughlin admits his story is hard to believe, but he wants Canadians to keep an open mind as he explains why he may have to apply as a political refugee in the country he's called home for his 60 years.

His father was First Nation, his mother Caucasian, and both were anarchists who didn't want to register his birth because they feared he'd be taken and sent to a residential school, said McGlaughlin.

The ramifications of their decision have been far-reaching for the Dawson City, Yukon, resident, who said he's been caught up in a lifelong bureaucratic nightmare that has prevented him from obtaining any form of identification, including a health-care card.



Don McGlaughlin pictured with his wife and children. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He said his problem came to a head even before he was hit by a series of heart attacks that have resulted in up to \$130,000 in medical and air-ambulance bills. Nobody in government, it seems, has yet been able to help him, said McGlaughlin, who said applying as a political

refugee may be his last option.

"I don't know how much harder my situation has to be without applying for political-refugee status," said McGlaughlin. "What else is there? I mean I'm stateless. I have no rights within my own country."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WORLD

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School massacre. Pakistan buries, mourns victims

As they buried their children Wednesday, the families spoke of their dreams. One boy had just gotten high marks on his midterm and hoped to become a pilot. A 13-year-old wanted to become a doctor. Another kid just loved playing video games with his cousins.

At cemeteries across the Pakistani city of Peshawar, families lowered the rough wooden coffins of young students and their teachers into the cold ground and gathered under funeral tents or at home, trying to comprehend the militant attack on a school

a day earlier that killed 148 people, almost all of them children.

The Pakistani government and military vowed a stepped-up campaign aimed at rooting out militant strongholds in the country's tribal regions along the border with Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban, which has waged an insurrection against the government for a decade, claimed responsibility. The group says it was seeking revenge for a military assault launched in June in North Waziristan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pakistani Christians take part in a candlelight vigil Wednesday, paying tribute to the victims killed in Tuesday's Taliban attack on a military-run school in Peshawar. K.M. CHAUDHARY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., Cuba mend relations after 50 years of tension

Historic agreement. Announcement follows more than a year of secret talks

President Barack Obama abruptly announced the U.S. is re-establishing long-broken diplomatic relations with Cuba on Wednesday, declaring an end to America's "outdated approach" to the Communist island in a historic shift aimed at ending a half-century of Cold War enmity.

"These 50 years have shown that isolation has not worked," Obama said in remarks from the White House. "It's time for a new approach."

As Obama spoke to Americans, Cuban President Raul Castro addressed his own nation from Havana, where bells pealed and schoolchildren interrupted their lessons to mark the historic news. Castro said that while the two countries

still have profound differences in areas such as human rights and foreign policy, they must learn "the art of living together in a civilized manner."

Wednesday's announcement followed more than a year of secret talks between the U.S. and Cuba, including clandestine meetings in Canada and the Vatican and personal involvement from Pope Francis. Setting the stage for the diplomatic breakthrough, Cuba released American Alan Gross, who had been imprisoned for five years, and a Cuban who had spied for the U.S. In exchange, three Cubans jailed in Florida were released by the U.S.

Gross spoke with Obama from the plane carrying him home, then met with Secretary of State John Kerry on the ground and later appeared before Washington reporters.

In Havana, Carlos Gonzalez, a 32-year-old information-technology specialist, spoke for many in calling the announce-



Manuel Lopez watches inside his cigar shop in Union City, N.J., as a Spanish television network covers Cuban President Raul Castro's speech on Wednesday. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ment "a shot of oxygen, a wish come true."

"It is an advance that will

open the road to a better future for the two countries," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted



"This is game-changing.... Two wrongs never make a right. I truly hope that we can now get beyond these mutually belligerent policies."

U.S. contractor Alan Gross, imprisoned in Cuba for five years

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WORLD

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London

Inquiry finds soldiers not guilty of murder

A judge-led inquiry on Wednesday found British soldiers mistreated nine Iraqi detainees but rejected allegations soldiers murdered and tortured prisoners.

The inquiry, which began in 2009, concluded that British soldiers used methods such as blind-folding prisoners and

depriving them of food and sleep during "tactical questioning" at Camp Abu Naji in southern Iraq. The soldiers also used threatening interrogation techniques that breached the Geneva Convention.

But the allegations that soldiers had murdered and tortured detainees after the May 2004 battle were found to be "entirely the product of deliberate lies, reckless speculation and ingrained hostility." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Australia

Hostage-taking gunman dropped off security watch list years ago: PM

The gunman responsible for a deadly siege in a Sydney cafe was once on the national security agency's watch list but was dropped off it years ago for reasons that remain unclear, Australia's prime minister said

Wednesday.

Tony Abbott said Man Haron Monis was on the watch list in 2008 and 2009 but was later dropped from it. The agency was watching Monis because he had sent a series of offensive letters to the families of dead Australian soldiers, Abbott said.

Abbott promised a transparent investigation. The government is expected to release a report in January looking into all aspects of the siege. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Nations oppose Israeli actions

Geneva. International conference rebukes Israel for colonizing land occupied by Palestinians

UN Security Council

In New York, an Arab-backed draft resolution on ending Israel's occupation of lands captured in 1967 was being submitted later Wednesday to the UN Security Council for a vote, the Palestinian foreign minister said.

- However, minister Riad Malki said the actual vote might be put off, suggesting a compromise is in the works to avoid a clash in the council.
- The current draft, sponsored by Jordan on behalf of the Palestinians, sets November 2016 as a deadline for an Israeli withdrawal from war-won lands the Palestinians are seeking for a state.

Israel suffered back-to-back diplomatic setbacks in Europe on Wednesday as Palestinians headed to the United Nations to try to set a two-year deadline for an Israeli withdrawal.

In Geneva, the international community delivered a stinging rebuke to Israel's settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, saying the practice violates Israel's responsibilities as an occupying power.

The declaration adopted by the conference of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which governs the rules of war and military occupation, emphasized a prohibition on colonizing occupied land and insisted that international humanitarian law be obeyed in areas affected by the conflict between Israel and Palestinians. It called for "all serious violations" to be investigated and those responsible for breaches to be brought to justice.

"This is a signal, and we can hope that words count," said Swiss ambassador Paul Fivat, who chaired the one-day meeting. The U.S. and Israel did not take part.

Israel's UN Mission blasted the gathering, saying: "It con-

fers legitimacy on terrorist organizations and dictatorial regimes wherever they are, while condemning a democratic country fighting terrorism in accordance with international law."

In Luxembourg, meanwhile, a European Union court ordered the Palestinian group Hamas removed from the EU terrorist list for procedural reasons but said the 28-nation bloc can maintain asset freezes against Hamas members for now. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Church of England names Libby Lane first female Bishop

Libby Lane delivers a speech in the Stockport Town Hall in Stockport, England, on Wednesday. The Church of England named Lane the first female bishop in its 500-year history on Wednesday, promoting the saxophone-playing, soccer-loving vicar to bishop of Stockport. The announcement comes five months after the church ended a long and divisive dispute by voting to allow women to serve as bishops. **LYNNE CAMERON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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BUSINESS

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NEXUS. Travel to U.S. to be easier for some Canadians

Travelling to the United States by air will be easier for some Canadian passengers, thanks to a new federal government initiative unveiled Wednesday.

NEXUS card holders and other low-risk trusted travellers who have already undergone extensive background checks will have access to dedicated screening lines at four of the country's busiest airports, Transport Minister Lisa Raitt said.

The trusted travellers include members of the Canadian and American armed forces, uniformed airline crews and members of the

Dedicated screening

The dedicated screening lines are now available at Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal airports. Eligible travellers can go through them without having to remove their shoes, belts, hats or jackets.

- They will also be allowed to keep liquids, aerosols and gels in their carry-on bags.

U.S. Global Entry travel program. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Sony Pictures cancels The Interview release

Controversy. Following terrorist threats by hackers, the studio has shelved the movie

Sony Pictures has cancelled the Dec. 25 release of The Interview after hackers threatened terror attacks and the largest multiplex chains in North America pulled the film from its screens.

In a statement Wednesday, Sony said it was cancelling The Interview release "in light of the decision by the majority of our exhibitors not to show the film." The studio, which has been shaken by hacker leaks over the past several weeks, said it respected and shared in the exhibitors' concerns.

"We are deeply saddened at this brazen effort to suppress the distribution of a movie and in the process do damage to our company, our employees and the American public," read the statement. "We stand



James Franco, centre left, as Dave, and Seth Rogen as Aaron in Columbia Pictures' The Interview. **ED ARAQUEL/COLUMBIA PICTURES-SONY/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

by our filmmakers and their right to free expression and are extremely disappointed by this outcome."

Earlier Wednesday, Regal Cinemas, AMC Entertainment and Cinemark Theatres — the top three theatre chains in North America — announced

that they were postponing any showings of The Interview, a comedy about a TV host (James Franco) and producer (Seth Rogen) tasked by the CIA to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (played by Randall Park).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BlackBerry. CEO tries to revive the 'CrackBerry'

While BlackBerry's latest smartphone might look familiar, chief executive John Chen said Wednesday the new Classic model is hardly a "rehash" of old technology.

The head of the Waterloo, Ont.-based company stood before an audience in New York on Wednesday and told them he was responding to requests from some of BlackBerry's most loyal customers, such as the leaders of major U.S. banks.

"A lot of them pulled out their BlackBerry ... and told me, 'Don't mess around with this thing. Don't mess around with the keyboard, don't mess around with the track pad,'" Chen said.

Reaching back to the heyday of the "CrackBerry" was a conscious decision by Chen to drag BlackBerry users, who have clung to their old and worn BlackBerry Bold and Curve models, into the next generation of the device.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A dog in American Eagle Outfitters items. **COURTESY AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pet fashion no joke for American Eagle

These clothing designers have to think about pattern, fabric and fit — as well as where to put the poo bags.

Creating on-trend outfits is a whole different animal for pet-fashion designers, whose work is becoming mainstream as animal lovers look to further pamper their

pets. For some owners, it's a statement; for others, it's a way to match man's best friend; and sometimes it's simply about keeping animals warm this winter. But it's clear the number of dressed-up dogs and cats jumps significantly once holiday photos need to be taken.

"We have gone from the kind of cute reindeer gear or ugly sweater to more functional clothing," said Lauren Darr, founder of the International Association of Pet Fashion Professionals in New York City.

Pet fashion got a leg up after American Eagle Outfitters

received an outpouring from its April Fool's Day joke this year. To raise money and awareness for an animal-welfare group, the popular retailer introduced a fake fashion line called American Beagle Outfitters. But the joke was on the Pittsburgh company.

"Our customers were very clear about their desire for this product to become a reality," company spokesman Michael Leedy said last month when welcoming the pet line for real. Its tiny puffy jackets, sweaters and hats sell for \$12.95 to \$39.95 US.

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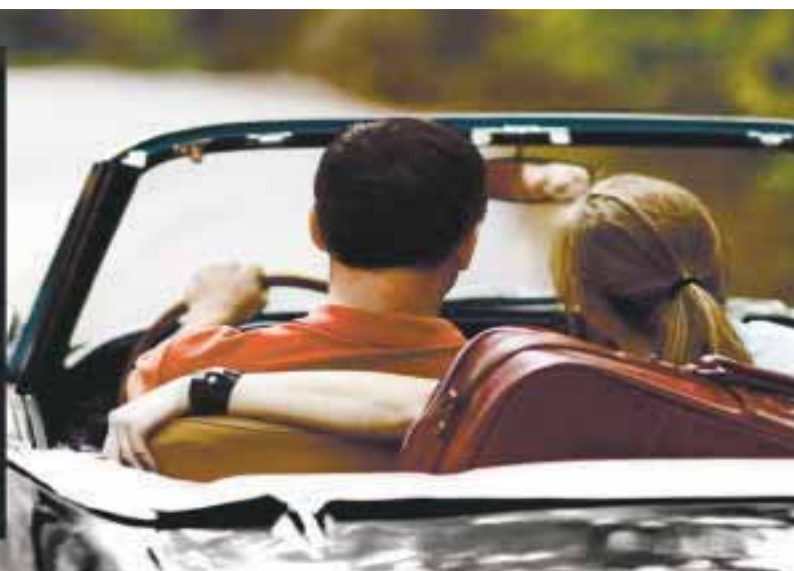
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VOICES

HER NAME IS REHTAEH PARSONS

The father of the late Rehtaeh Parsons explains why he has reason to smile today after the courts said people can publish his daughter's name — as long as they do so with respect

GLEN CANNING
readers@metronews.ca

My daughter's name is Rehtaeh Parsons. I can send this column to Metro knowing it won't be redacted or the article refused for violating a publication ban.

I can finally say her name without the uneasiness of breaking the law and being charged.

Since April, I lived with the fear of having a police officer knock on my door and tell me I'm under arrest. To be honest, that fear included the look on the officer's face telling me police thought the ban as ridiculous as I did.

Everyone knows Rehtaeh's name, but for the past eight months, no one wanted to come out and say it. Even her friends feared they would be arrested for wishing Rehtaeh a happy birthday on Facebook. That's how grey it was.

It has been a dark cloud to live under: having high schools cancel talks about cyber-bullying and consent because there was a publication ban in effect, the media erasing her name from the Internet, television segments showing my blurred face as I spoke about my daughter with her name bleeped out.

It was frustrating, to say the least. But today we finally have something to smile about.



Glen Canning holds a school picture of his late daughter Rehtaeh Parsons at his home in Halifax on Wednesday.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

Rehtaeh Parsons is her name — my daughter's name. I can say it now, and write it now, and talk about her openly on the radio, on television, in print and online.

Wednesday morning, I meet with the

Nova Scotia Attorney General and Minister of Justice Lena Diab, as well as the Director of Public Prosecutions Martin Herschorn.

They had asked to meet with me and Rehtaeh's mom, Leah, on Monday. When the meet-

ing started, Minister Diab didn't waste any time — they were going to issue a directive on the publication ban on Rehtaeh's name.

After everything that happened in the past year, I had no expectations going in — not one. Before the meeting I wrote on Twitter, "Rehtaeh Parsons is her name. Today I'm hoping to get my daughter's name back."

You're reading her name now because that wish came true. Her name is back. It was an emotional moment when Diab told us what they were about to do and read the statement she was about to release.

"If Ms. Parsons' name is used in a respectful way, the Director of Public Prosecutions will not prosecute any violation of the ban." If we were asked to word it, the release would be exactly the same.

Today I can at least smile a little. People showed courage and leadership and stood up for us and our daughter. As soon as I left the meeting, I called Halifax freelance journalist Ryan Van Horne and thanked him. He took a big risk when he put himself out there and broke the ban on Rehtaeh's name.

I loved my daughter with all my heart and soul. There will never be another Rehtaeh Parsons — not in name, not in the way she lived and not in the way she died.

Being able to openly and honestly talk about her and her story will go a long way in making sure of that.

Ruling on cellphone searches



The Supreme Court recently ruled that police can look at your cellphone without a warrant. Metro reached out to two experts for analysis of the decision

HAVE A CELLPHONE? READ THIS

Lorne Goldstein, lawyer



Anyone who takes pictures, writes emails, keeps notes or does Internet searches on a cellphone should pay attention to the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of Her Majesty the Queen v. Fearon.

The judges ruled 4-3 that the contents of a cellphone can be searched incident to an arrest if (1) the arrest is lawful, (2) the search is actually incidental to the arrest and not for some other hidden purpose, (3) the nature and extent of the search are particular to the purpose of the arrest, and (4) the police take careful notes so that the search can be reviewed by a judge at trial.

The extent of the police search was of particular concern to the dissenting justices, who recognized the unique nature of cellphones and the information they carry. However, the majority were content to set the law broadly and trust the police to exercise self-restraint.

It remains to be seen how many clicks on the photo icon or the Safari search history menu is too many.

In the Fearon case, the phone was unlocked. Future cases will have to consider how much pressure the arresting officers can put on a detainee to unlock his phone for the purposes of a search.

If the now-lawful search would be frustrated by a password, can the police compel the owner to unlock the phone in the same way they can compel the driver of a car to open a door?

This question, and others, will have to be answered by trial judges seeking to apply the new law where the rubber meets the road: the courtrooms. *Lorne Goldstein is a partner at Abergel Goldstein & Partners, a Certified Specialist in Criminal Law and a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law.*



A CHILLING IMPLICATION

James Turner, crime journalist

It would be far easier to stomach the Supreme Court's new guidelines for warrantless police searches of cellphones if every arrest investigators made led to a charge and then public prosecution.

But that's not the way our justice system works — and the top court's ruling last Friday leaves a potential for serious police overreach into the private lives of citizens for the sheer sake of gathering intelligence.

It's not difficult to see how the process of holding police to account for these searches could become somewhat murky and a door to potential misconduct could crack open. This is so because it's not always the case people placed under arrest will be charged with a crime and prosecuted in open court, where a cellphone search can be challenged and police conduct scrutinized. Even if no charge is laid, police still net the opportunity to search a

phone and catalogue for their own uses what information they found on it.

What's dangerous is that the person arrested and released without charge has no recourse to challenge the validity of the search in court or have their privacy restored; once their privacy's been taken, it's gone.

"What a police officer sees simply cannot be unseen, even if there is justification provided after the fact," Toronto lawyer Omar Ha-Redeye wrote in a thoughtful commentary to the court's ruling. The implications of this are chilling. Given the vast amount of personal data we now store on cellphones, we were better off with police needing warrants to search them — just as they still must to search homes, computers and other personal, private property in most cases. *James Turner is a Winnipeg crime journalist and journalism instructor. He's on Twitter at @heyjturner.*

metro

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Turning tragedy into comix

Books. Art Spiegelman says the dark, personal nature of his graphic novels lends itself to a different kind of storytelling



MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Art Spiegelman likes telling long stories.

He's the creator of *Maus*, the only graphic novel ever to win a Pulitzer Prize. It is, by design, a long story.

Ask him about it, as Metro did during one of his rare visits to Canada, and it leads to a lengthy conversation about art, tragedy, and, inevitably, the Holocaust.

Spiegelman is a chatty man, which might come as a surprise to anyone who's read his intensely personal, dark works.

As he talks privately in a side room at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, which is showing a retrospective of more than 300 pieces of his work, the former chain smoker puffs on an e-cigarette, looking distinguished with his waistcoat and grey goatee.

Earlier, in an interview with more members of the media, he chuckled when he talked about being "trapped" by *Maus*, the thing he made.

But it established him as one of the most important figures in his medium, gaining him a special Pulitzer in 1992.

The personal nature of Spiegelman's work is a vital part of it, he later says.

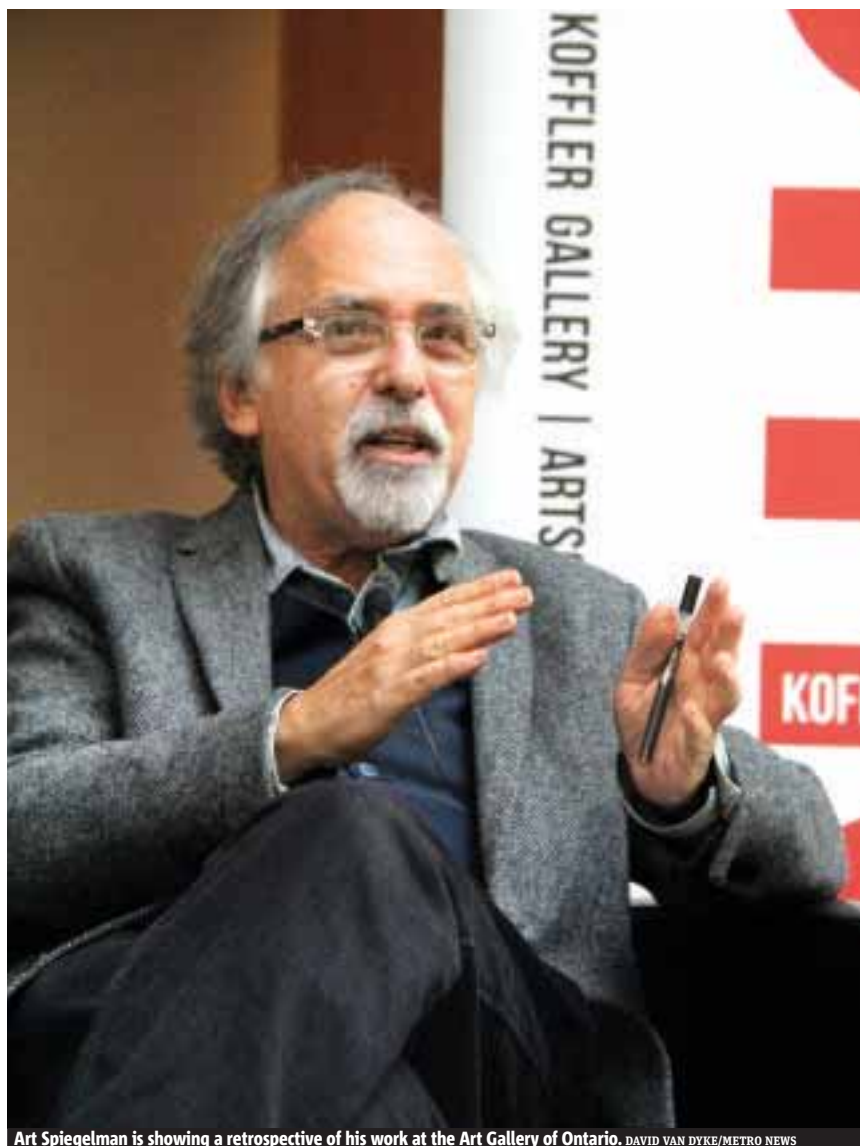
It draws on his background as a seminal figure in North American underground comix, as he prefers to spell them.

"To be able to do comix that were personal seemed to invite and build a different kind of storytelling," he explains.

Maus is the story of his parents' experiences during the Holocaust, including their time at Auschwitz, and how Spiegelman interviewed his father about that time.

It came from an ambition to create "a very long comic book that needed a book-mark and could be reread."

Its creation is, in itself, a long story, starting in 1972 with *Funny Animals*,



Art Spiegelman is showing a retrospective of his work at the Art Gallery of Ontario. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO NEWS

Long career

The work of Art Spiegelman isn't limited to *Maus*, but he's no stranger to tough subjects.

- He began with underground titles like *Short Order Comix* and many others, but created *Raw* magazine with his wife in the 1970s, serializing early parts of *Maus*.
- Other work has included Topps bubblegum cards, with the creation of the *Garbage Pail Kids* one highlight, and revitalizing the 1920s beat poem *The Wild Party* with his illustrations in a new edition.
- There are also his covers for the *New Yorker*, including the iconic 9/11 cover showing the black Twin Towers against a black sky, and an image of a Hassidic Jew kissing an African-American woman, published during a time of racial tension.
- The attacks of New York, just a few blocks from his home, were also the focus of the work in *The Shadow Of No Towers*.

an underground comic that featured anthropomorphic creatures.

Invited to submit a story, Spiegelman chose a bedtime tale of Jewish life under Nazi Germany, entitling it *Maus*. It depicts Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Soon afterward, he wrote and drew *Prisoner On The Hell Planet*, as a way of recovering suppressed memories of his mother's suicide.

"I just grabbed paper and started getting it down as it came to me," Spiegelman says. "I had to do it."

By the end of the decade, the two works had come together in the longer-form *Maus*.

Interestingly, Spiegelman says he's "not that competent" as an illustrator.

He's happy to call himself a "cartoonist" or "comics artist" but he's more of an all-round storyteller, changing his style each time he tackles a new subject. He calls it a "process of re-inventing the wheel."

"Everything I do leaves me collapsing at the end and having to reinvent myself," he says.

"It's difficult to keep doing that as we move on in the world and your bones get weary."



ALL IMAGES USED BY PERMISSION OF THE ARTIST AND THE WYLIE AGENCY LLC. ALL BUT THE FIRST THREE ARE COURTESY OF DRAWN + QUARTERLY.

Graphic novels. Hiddleston is the new favourite to play Morpheus in The Sandman

The Thor co-star and Only Lovers Left Alive lead Tom Hiddleston has emerged as Neil Gaiman's latest favourite for the role of The Sandman main character Morpheus — or, failing that, anyone else with an English accent and sufficiently good cheekbones. Long regarded as rich material for a film adaptation, plans for a screen adaptation of Gaiman's seminal graphic novel The Sandman gained renewed momentum this year.

A treatment by David Goyer (The Dark Knight, Batman v. Superman) was handed off to Jack Thorne, writer on multiple This Is England TV series as well as Nick Hornby adaptation A Long Way Down,



Morpheus in The Sandman
CONTRIBUTED

with Joseph Gordon-Levitt in a producer's role.

At one point it had been thought that Gordon-Levitt would take on the main part too, but with Gaiman publicly ruminating on other possible choices, that may not have been the case.

Gaiman has long been on the lookout for potential Morpheus actors, the author explained in conversation with the U.K.'s Radio Times. "There was a time Johnny Depp would've been a great Morpheus, but now he's too old and it's fine." **AFP**



Tom Hiddleston
GETTY IMAGES FILE

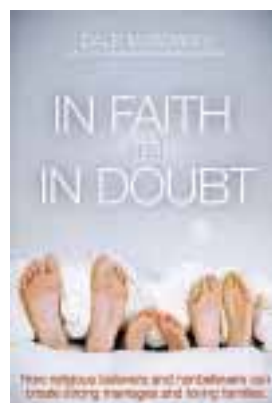
Helping interfaith couples make it through December

Advice. Author of *In Faith and in Doubt* says neither partner gets to declare that everything is non-negotiable

LAKSHMI GANDHI
Metro in New York City

The holidays can be particularly stressful for couples who don't share the same spiritual or religious views. Should an atheist attend midnight mass with the in-laws? Are Christmas trees or menorahs OK? Without clear expectations, getting through December with your nerves intact can be challenging.

"Everybody has to negotiate — neither partner can declare everything non-negotiable. That's not OK," says Dale McGowan, a longtime atheist and the author of the book *In Faith and in Doubt*. "What they have to do is pick and



choose."

McGowan shares his thoughts on how couples can respect both of their belief systems and strengthen their relationship in the process.

Should everyone attend services?

McGowan says every couple should talk about their negotiables and non-negotiables. "My wife's extended family

is quite religious and I go to church every year with my mother-in-law," explains McGowan, who says his wife was a Southern Baptist when they married 23 years ago. "For me, going to church with her was a perfectly fine compromise and a way to honour a part of our family."

Some things can't be compromised:

"If you have an atheist who had a painful separation from religion, it can be really difficult for someone to attend church," he says. "People have to respect that." If you or your partner feel like you absolutely cannot participate in religious activities, it's vital that you talk about it.

Mutual respect is key:

"Sometimes I hear people say, 'Sometimes I struggle with this because I can't respect what my partner believes.' But you don't have to agree on beliefs, what you do have to say is, 'I respect my partner.'"

Books

Ava Lee series heads to CBC TV

CBC-TV plans to adapt Canadian author Ian Hamilton's Ava Lee crime thriller series. The female protagonist is a fearless Chinese-Canadian forensic accountant who lives in Toronto and is gay. House of Anansi Press says Strada Films has struck a development deal with the CBC for a limited series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judy Blume pens book for adults

Judy Blume is returning to the grown-up section. The author's first adult novel since 1998 is coming out in June. Publisher Alfred A. Knopf announced Monday that the novel *In the Unlikely Event* will be set in the early 1950s in Blume's native New Jersey and will tell of a series of mysterious plane crashes.

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Gossip

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METRO'S TAKE
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Joey Fatone ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Joey Fatone is out of sync on Justin and Jessica's baby news

There's at least one member of "NSYNC who might be dropped from Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel's Christmas card list, as Joey Fatone went and announced the couple's pregnancy before they could.

"He told me a while ago, and I kept my mouth shut, but I can talk about it now," Fatone tells InTouch.

I'm just guessing here, Joey, but I'm pretty sure when Justin said you can talk about it now he didn't

mean to a tabloid. Your baby shower gift better be pretty spectacular, is all I'm saying.

Fatone, by the way, is super-stoked for the couple. "Jessica is awesome, and Justin is a kid at heart," he says.

Yeah, about that. A less-identifiable source tells the National Enquirer that Biel is a bit concerned Timberlake isn't quite ready for all this parenting stuff.

"They've spent little time together during Jessica's pregnancy" because of

Timberlake's ongoing concert tour, the source says. "Justin pretends he doesn't have a care, but you can see how antsy he is. He knows it won't be long before his life changes. Now she's concerned it might be more than Justin can handle."

Rest assured, Fatone will let us know about it first.



Angelina Jolie

They're real and they're spectacular

Britney Spears' new Woman's Health magazine cover was met nearly immediately by speculation that she'd benefited from some enhancement by the Photoshop department. So the magazine put out a video from behind the scenes of the shoot, hoping to put such talk to rest. And honestly, the woman's been doing a regular Vegas show for a while, so why are we skeptical of her abs being, as the magazine cover exclaims, "insane"? Yours would be, too, with that work schedule.

Angelina hires online bodyguard for brood

Angelina Jolie admits she's not terribly Internet-savvy, so to make sure her six kids are being safe online, she brings in professional help.

"We have someone who monitors that," she tells People magazine, explaining that neither she nor husband

Brad Pitt have any sort of social media

presence. "It's a scary world. It's so beyond what we understand. We wouldn't even know what to look for." Well, cyber-bullying by Scott Rudin would be one thing I'd watch out for if I were her.



Mindy Kaling debuts the Wreath Witherspoon on The Mindy Project. Below, Instagrammers have been posting their own versions of the wreath. NBC

Reese is a fan of Mindy's Wreath Witherspoon

Mindy Kaling has launched a new holiday tradition, with the introduction of the Wreath Witherspoon on The Mindy Project last week. And now the crafty home decoration — a traditional Christmas wreath adorned with photos of Oscar-winning

actress Reese Witherspoon — has been given the seal of approval by Witherspoon herself. Witherspoon reposted Kaling's Instagram of various fan interpretations of the gag exclaiming, "Love it!" Maybe she'll even be making one herself this year.



INSTAGRAM

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Throwing Marsala into your mix

Style. How to incorporate Pantone's colour of the year into your wardrobe

KATELYN ZBOROWSKI
Metro News in Toronto

When hearing the word 'Marsala' one may think of an Italian chicken dish or rich red wine. However, Pantone's recent unveiling of the 2015 colour of the year will surely leave the fashion world hearing (and seeing) a whole lot more of the perplexingly named hue. In fact, Marsala is poised to become one of the hottest and most in-demand colours of the New Year.

So what does a new must-have shade and Pantone's stamp of approval mean for you and your wardrobe? For one, it means switching up your black basics for something a little richer and slightly spicier.

But fashionable friends, there's no need to sweat. Metro has you covered — and stylishly so.

You'll see plenty of this bold and spicy brown-red on shelves, and in windows, as early as later this month. It never takes long for retailers to start featuring the New Year's official colour, especially with the holidays so near. From kitchenware and home decor to fashion and beauty — you'll have nothing but choice when it comes to what may very well be your new signature shade.

For ladies who crave a pop of colour but appreciate subtlety, Marsala will be your new best friend. The shade



Do you dare to go full Marsala this coming New Year? GETTY IMAGES

complements fair complexions and richens deep ones, making it a colour worthy of both your wardrobe and makeup bag.

According to professional image consultant Christie

Ressel, Kylie Jenner has been a huge fan over the last few months, regularly donning overdrawn lipstick in muted red-brown. The Jenner sister's regular Instagram updates and paparazzi snaps

Hue oughta know

- Fashion stylist Talia Brown cautions that while monochromatic Marsala may work in an evening gown, it can be a bit much for someone to pull off.
- She adds that Marsala may be a no-no when matched with fully saturated brights, such as cherry red or highlighter orange.



Making the best of the bold

"For a neutral look, consider pairing the shade with other warm-toned colours such as deep brown, beige or pea green."

Christie Ressel
Professional image consultant

have only added to the colour's popularity in the beauty world.

Ressel also shares that Marsala is "muted" and "has a refined quality", making it pop in accessories and stand-out in separates.

"For a neutral look, consider pairing the shade with other warm-toned colours such as deep brown, beige or pea green," says Ressel. For more of a statement look, she advises opting for lilac, dusty rose or sky blue.

While its name may be new to the world of fashion, the colour itself has been seen on fall and winter runways for years.

Like black, Marsala can easily be used as a wardrobe staple in "wine-coloured boots, leather bags and

leather coats", according to sought-after fashion stylist Talia Brown. She describes the shade as being, "very much in the brown family" and praises its ability to be both stark and subtle.

Brown recommends that men incorporate Marsala into their wardrobes in the forms of ties, scarves, and belts or even printed dress socks.

Challenge yourself to step away from the black, put down the grey and reach for Marsala in 2015. You'll be perfectly on-trend while investing in classic pieces that are set to withstand the test of time. It's not often a single shade accomplishes both, so be on the lookout for Pantone's colour of the year at your favourite stores next month.

4

must-haves in Marsala



Dooney & Bourke Bitsy Crossbody Bag

\$158.40, thebay.com

TOPSHOP Bodycon Midi Dress

\$40, thebay.com



Ocaria Heel

\$24.99, aldoshoes.com

NARS Eye Shadow Single in New York

\$28, murale.ca



3 TIPS

Surprise Santa with something a bit more original

Cookbook of the Week

Gifts from your heart (and kitchen)



The next time you're giving a gift, skip the mass-produced items that have become the norm and crack open *Handmade Gifts from the Kitchen* by Alison Walker.

The book offers more than 100 gift ideas with easy-to-follow recipes and ideas of presentation — including decorative jars, tins, baskets and boxes to add a personal touch that ensures your gift will be remembered long after it's been eaten.

Recipes include Earl Grey Hearts, Popcorn Bark, Peanut Brittle, Bourbon Peaches, Tiffin, Lemon Syrup Loaf Cakes and Sesame Snaps. **METRO**

White Chocolate and Rosemary Truffles. The guy in the red suit will appreciate these sweet little bites a lot more than boring cookies

"These rich and interesting truffles offer a delicate balance of white chocolate with aromatic rosemary. I find that the rosemary tempers the sweetness of the white chocolate so it doesn't end up too sickly. See what you think," writes Alison Walker in *Handmade Gifts from the Kitchen*.

1. Put the cream and rosemary in a small pan and bring to a boil — this is important, otherwise the ganache won't thicken when beaten. Put the chocolate into a heatproof bowl. Pour over the cream and rosemary and stir once or twice.

2. Set the bowl over a pan of very gently simmering water, add the corn syrup and butter. Let melt, stirring once or twice to combine. Set aside until cooled to room temperature.

3. Discard the rosemary. When cool, beat the mixture with an electric mixer until soft, fluffy, and paler in colour. Pour into a lightly oiled disposable foil container (7 inches x 5 inches) and put into the refrigerator to set.

4. Lay out a large piece of

parchment paper on your counter and dust liberally with confectioners' sugar.

5. Retrieve the foil container from the refrigerator and snip its edges so that you can carefully peel them away. Turn out the truffle block onto a board. Cut into 1 1/4-inch cubes (you'll need to clean the knife with paper towels every few cuts) and transfer the truffles to the parchment paper as you go.

6. Dust the truffle cubes with more confectioners' sugar and roll, pressing gently, to cover them completely.

7. Transfer the truffles to petit-four paper cups and arrange in lidded boxes. Store in the refrigerator, where they can last for up to two weeks.

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Ingredients

- Scant 1/2 cup heavy cream
- A large sprig rosemary
- 7 oz white chocolate, broken into pieces
- 1 tbsp corn syrup
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- Sunflower oil, for greasing
- Confectioners' sugar, for dusting



This recipe makes 30 chocolates. TARA FISHER



This recipe makes two cups. TARA FISHER

Snack. Smoky Nuts

"These nuts look fantastic packaged simply in cellophane with ribbon or tape or in a compartmentalized box.

"If you or a friend likes their nuts spicier, then simply add in a couple of pinches of chile powder with the paprika," writes Alison Walker in *Handmade Gifts from the Kitchen*.

These nuts keep for up to two weeks in an airtight container or sealed plastic bag.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Toss the nuts together or each type separately in the

oil, depending on how you want to package them. Roast in a preheated oven for 5 to 10 minutes until golden.

3. Remove from the oven, then immediately toss in the salt and paprika, and let cool.

Ingredients

- 2 cups mixed nuts, such as cashews, blanched almonds, macadamias, and brazil nuts
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1 tsp smoked paprika

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Designing the perfect Christmas tree

Got a great-looking place? Then you need a chic Christmas tree to stand out in style during the holidays. Whether you've chosen a real or artificial tree, decorate it using a few of these alternative design solutions



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca



ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

A theme come true

Coming up with a styled theme can be most difficult as each year holiday trends change, requiring new ornaments. Invest in a colour you have always liked. Gold, red or silver are classic winners for holiday tree ornaments. Seventy per cent of your ornaments should include this colour. The remaining 30 per cent can incorporate a current trend and be changed up every two-to-three years. This year, look for turquoise, rust and black as trend options. Any one of them can be worked in with your main colour with ease.

Ornament to be

Hanging larger ornaments close to the bottom and smaller one close to the top always works for good proportions. Many glass-looking ornaments are unbreakable. Look for these, especially for the larger ornaments near the bottom of the tree. Pick a sweet theme that will leave you calorie-free. **Macaroon Ornament Set, \$14, UrbanOutfitter.com**



In a good light



New LED string lights are longer-lasting and energy efficient. Look for warm white lights (not the cool blue-ish ones) to create a flattering glow of light. Purchase 80 to 100 lights per each foot of the tree's height. Combine new technology with some retro appeal and you've got lighting that will last year to year. **Lord & Taylor 25 Indoor LED Pearl Warm White Lights, \$25, TheBay.com**

More than one way to skirt a tree

Always finish your tree with a skirt to hide the stand and any light cords — leaving it bare is a big decorator no-no. The skirt should help complete your tree's decor theme. For instance, if your accent or trend colour is turquoise, then that's the colour to use for your skirt. Consider using plaid blankets, fur throws or even a holiday printed tablecloth at the bottom of the tree. Tree collars are a new way to hide the under-tree chaos. **Galvanized and Wicker Tree collars, \$80, CrateAndBarrel.com**



Take it from the top

The most-forgotten element of the tree always seems to be the topper. No longer does the topper need to be in the form of a star or an angel. Consider decorative resin antlers, everlasting flowers, straw-crafted birds (owls are still big this year), birdhouses or large ribbon bows in lieu of the traditional tree-topper.



Pinecone and glitter peace sign tree topper, \$100, PotteryBarn.com

Christmas morning table



For many, the holidays can be a time for starting new traditions. And if there's one tradition style gurus Steven and Chris never miss out on, it's Christmas morning brunch! Who doesn't love waking up Christmas morning to discover an exciting dining table decked with holiday cheer? Here are some tips from the guys on how to set a table that'll get everyone talking. Steven and Chris airs Monday to Friday at 2 p.m. EST on CBC Television.

TEXT BY MICHAEL PIHACH. PHOTOS BY ALEXIS GLINERT.

Santa's been here!

Need proof that Santa's sleigh swooped by? Simply use a large boot as a stencil and sprinkle powdered sugar or fake snow around it so that it creates a footprint. Lead some prints directly from the front door or fireplace directly to your morning table. Watch: your Kids will freak!



Holiday robes for everyone

There's nothing better than spending Christmas morning lounging around in a warm robe. Buy a holiday robe for all the members of your family and attach to their chairs at the table. Add everybody's names to a tag as an indicator as to who sits where. Consider it everybody's "first gift of the day," plus it'll start the day off on a cozy note!

Who wants to be a millionaire?

Place a lottery scratch ticket along with a mini liqueur and chocolates into a tiny box and place one at each person's seat. Decorate the box with ribbon and top it off with a party cracker. Everyone can scratch their tickets and talk about what they'd do if they won a million dollars. (Hey, it could happen!)



Unleash your inner cookie monster

Holidays are a time to indulge for both kids and grown-ups. Give your table a sweet focal point by making a cookie tree forest centerpiece. Buy store-bought cookie dough (or make your own) and mold a set of cookies into mini Christmas trees. Insert popicle sticks into the base of the tree and then bake. Paint the baked cookies with green icing; let dry. Get a trough or container and insert a foam block wrapped in a sheet of moss or fake snow. Stick the tree cookies into the foam and presto! You'll have a cookie forest that'll last all day.

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Byfuglien belonged on defence all along



THE HOCKEY NEWS
Rory Boylen
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Sometimes, the line between cause and effect is pretty easy to draw.

After taking over the coaching reins on Jan. 12, 2013, Paul Maurice moved Dustin Byfuglien up to forward, and he had stubbornly resisted moving him back to the blueline despite Byfuglien's struggles at right wing.

Nearly a year later, Maurice's hand was finally forced when, with Toby Enstrom already sidelined, the Winnipeg Jets lost Zach Bogosian too, after he went down with an injury in a game against the Edmonton Oilers. Maurice had no choice but to move Big Buff back to defence.

In the Jets' six games since then, they've gone 3-1-2, and their lone regulation loss was to the league-leading Anaheim Ducks. More importantly, Winnipeg appears to have finally found its offence. The Jets have scored 23 goals over their past six games for an average of 3.8 per game. The anemic power play has also caught fire, scoring on seven of 25 chances, a 28 per cent success rate.

It's no coincidence that this recent surge on offence has coincided with Byfuglien shifting back to defence, a move this column and several others in the Winnipeg media called for weeks ago, as Byfuglien was so obviously languishing at right wing.



Dustin Byfuglien clears the puck against the Avalanche in Denver earlier this month. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

He has two goals and five points in those six games (four goals and eight points in his past eight) while averaging more than 26 minutes of ice time per game. He had only five goals and 11 points in 26 games as a forward this season.

And with Jacob Trouba out until February, the Jets are going to have to rely on Byfuglien even more.

Now, the concern is that, with Byfuglien back on the blueline, the Jets' super stingy defence will become a little soft. And over those six games, the defence has in-

deed slipped, averaging 2.67 goals against per game.

But that is likely due more to Ondrej Pavelec and Michael Hutchinson coming back to Earth than any significant liability of having Byfuglien on defence. After his hot start to the season, Pavelec has posted a 2.44 goals against average and a .903 save percentage in four December games, while Hutchinson's stats are a 2.35 GAA and a .912 SP in three games for the month.

Can Winnipeg keep its offensive renaissance with Byfuglien leading the way

from the back end?

If anything, it at least proves that the offence hasn't disappeared under Maurice's stifling defensive system, and that putting Byfuglien back where he belongs was the right move to make all along.

Byfuglien stats

- **Fenwick.** Unblocked shot attempts: 50.2%
- **Corsi.** All shot attempts: 50.6%

Flames

Hartley rewarded with extension

The Calgary Flames are locking up head coach Bob Hartley to a multi-year contract extension.

He has guided the NHL team to a 17-14-2 record this season.

The Flames are tied for eighth place in the Western Conference standings with 36 points.

The announcement comes with Calgary mired in a six-game losing skid.

Hartley has led the Flames to a 71-79-13 mark since he was hired in May 2012.

He has coached in several leagues over his career and was previously an NHL head coach with the Colorado Avalanche and Atlanta Thrashers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Predators

League fines Neal for diving

The NHL fined Nashville Predators forward James Neal \$2,000 US for diving on Wednesday, making him the first player to be fined under a new league initiative to crack down on embellishment.

Neal was assessed a two-minute minor penalty for embellishment at 19:39 of the third period of Nashville's 2-0 loss in San Jose on Saturday.

It was Neal's second citation for embellishment this season, which triggered the automatic fine.

Under the new rules, a player's coach also gets fined upon his fourth offence and subsequent infractions. The fines for coaches begin at \$2,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Bombers fire defensive co-ordinator



Bombers defenders try to sack a Calgary Stampeders' Derek Leung. Head coach Mike O'Shea announced the firing of defensive co-ordinator Gary Etcheverry on Wednesday. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers fired defensive co-ordinator Gary Etcheverry on Wednesday.

He spent less than one year in the position. The Blue Bombers missed the playoffs after finishing last in the CFL West Division standings with a 7-11 record.

"Obviously a decision like this is a very difficult one to make on many levels," head coach Mike O'Shea said in a release. "The reality of the situation is such that we simply weren't good enough on

the defensive side of the football this season, and felt that we needed to go in a different direction in this regard.

"Gary is a good man and good football coach, and the Blue Bombers wish him well moving forward."

Etcheverry, who was hired last February, previously served as a defensive co-ordinator in Saskatchewan (2000, 2009, 2010), Ottawa (2004, B.C., (2001) and Toronto (1999).

He first joined the CFL's coaching ranks in 1997 as a

defensive line coach with the Argonauts and later served as the team's head coach (2002) and president of football operations. Etcheverry also has previous coaching experience in the NFL, German Football League, CIS, Canada Junior Football League and NCAA.

There was no immediate word on a replacement or staffing plans for the defensive position coaches.

"The defensive staff are not under contract for next season," O'Shea said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

You may be in a charitable mood but don't give away too much. Your luck is changing for the better but you still need to make sure you have enough to cover unforeseen setbacks.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

What happens over the next few days may be unsettling but the planets promise you will do very well thanks to the changes that take place.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

This is a time of major changes for you that will accelerate when the Sun moves into Capricorn at the weekend, so get plenty of rest. You'll need it.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

There is no point starting a fight you know you cannot win. For some strange reason you feel you must prove yourself to the world, but that isn't true. Besides, what does it prove if you end up flat on your back?

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Let matters develop at their own pace today, especially on the work front where things are moving so fast that there is no point in trying to change them.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Someone may try to persuade you that a course of action is in your interests but you have doubts. Listen to your instincts and act on what they tell you.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

There may be exciting things going on in your social environment but you must ignore them all and focus on getting a family matter sorted.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Someone you work with will disagree with your plans today but there is no way you are going to change them. Tell them you understand their concerns then carry on exactly the same as before.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Do you give a colleague your support and risk falling out with someone in authority? Or do you side with the powers that be and risk losing a friend? Only you can decide but it's got to be one or the other.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

The new moon on the 22nd will do wonders for your courage. Between now and then, keep a low profile and save energy.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Focus on something creative you can do alone. You may be sociable but sometimes you need to be alone to get the best from your abilities.

♓ Pisces

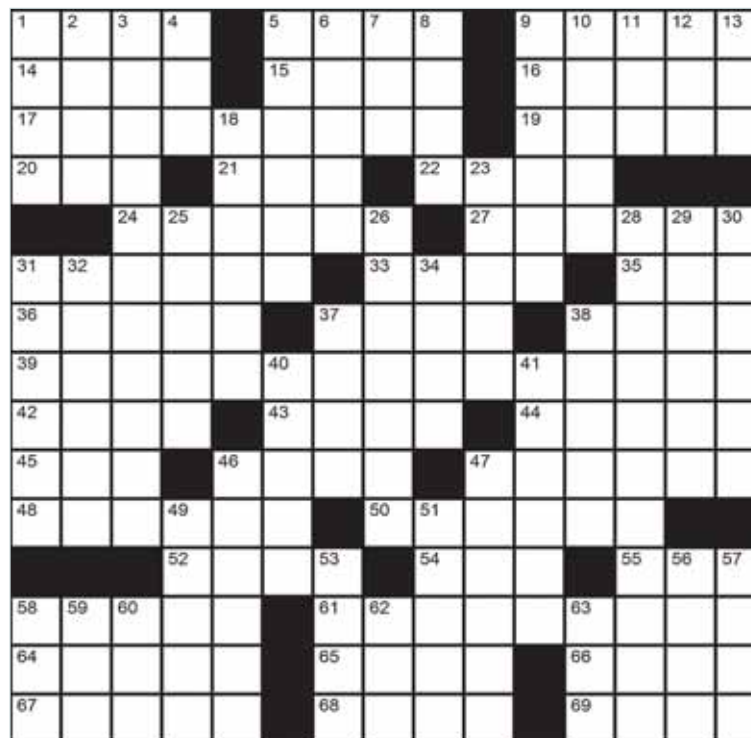
Feb. 20 - March 20

You won't find it hard to persuade partners and colleagues to follow your lead today but don't use force. If you do, they will drag their feet.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

Across

1. Dutch artist, Rembrandt van ___
5. ___ Buy (Electronics store)
9. 1885: Canada's first national park
14. KT Tunstall's "Sud-denly ___"
15. Mixture
16. Ring-shaped coral island with a lagoon in the middle
17. Vancouver Island: ___ Goose Regional Trail
19. Mr. Bear
20. Li'l ocean
21. Reckon
22. ___ few moments (Rested briefly)
24. Admiration
27. Nearly
31. Escalate: 2 wds.
33. Superior at a French monastery
35. Phantom's scare!
36. Haven
37. "No ___!" (It was no big deal!)
38. "Heat of the Moment" band
39. Wristbands that monitor things like steps taken and calories burned: 2 wds.
42. Ice mass
43. Infiction
44. Quebec stop sign word
45. "Restrict" suffix
46. ___ 'Hers
47. Removes any doubt



48. Alex ___, Canadian host of "Jeopardy!"
50. Moviedom's Ms. Miller
52. Guitar bar
54. Glaswegian's 'No'
55. Even if, briefly
58. Stringed instrument
61. Song by Canadian

- band Streetheart that goes "How'd you get the car, those diamonds and pearls..."
64. Bird-related
65. Sailing direction
66. Highlands tongue
67. Actress Naomi
68. Taken back [abbr.]
69. Hairstyling hues

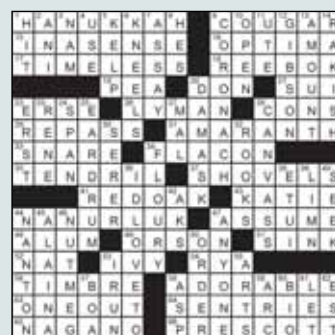
Down

1. Capital of Latvia
2. Time ___ a premium
3. "Money (Part 1)" Canadian Hip-Hop artist
4. First word in Inferno by Dante
5. Storied shepherd-

- ess, with Little: 2 wds.
6. Upper crust
7. Canuck ID
8. Clothes
9. ___ Harbour (Labrador community)
10. "The ___" by Ed Sheeran
11. Fall asleep, ___ off
12. Do dry-clothes-

- taken-from-the-dryer work, briefly
13. Be an Air Canada passenger
18. Dense
23. Limerick's rhyming pattern
25. Back
26. Hamilton-born comedian Mr. Short's
28. Scientific lookout station
29. Nighttime get together
30. Wedding reception speeches
31. Roof's overhang underside
32. Bespoke clothing professional
34. "A Star Is ___" (1976)
37. Community commercials, curtly
38. Ohio city
40. Railway track fastener
41. Art of "The Honey-mooners"
46. Wading birds
47. Rang loudly
49. A Sharp sometimes, ___
51. Cove
53. "___ she blows!"
56. Outdoor tap hookup
57. Poetic pieces
58. Canuck priv. sectr union
59. Ms. Longoria
60. English ___
62. Toreador's taunt
63. Pre-Thurs. day

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at
metronews.ca/answers



Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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